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US interests abroad seem to shift and expand but never diminish. Grau describes potential oil exports from the Caspian Sea region that bring promises of revenue—and possible threats from Russian nuclear weapons, as Kipp warns. Turbiville reminds us that Mexico's security issues invite greater US attention to its immediate south. Closer than ever before, through trade and modern communications, China explores electronic strategies, which Thomas explains. Although the time for transition in Cuba is not clear, it is closer, and Demarest discusses the three major forces affecting the change. Finally, Sarafian shows how religious forces fill gaps left in the wake of the Soviet Union and create even more fissures in former Soviet Republics.

**NOTES**